

NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

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County Bar Association Inducts 3 Arizona Judges into Hall of Fame

PHOENIX – The Maricopa County Bar Association inducted three Arizona judges into its Hall of Fame at an October 27 luncheon. They are: the Honorable John Gemmill from the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division 1; the Honorable Ron Reinstein, a retired Superior Court judge from Maricopa County who works as a consultant to the Administrative Office of the Courts; and the Honorable Elizabeth Finn, Presiding Judge of the Glendale City Court.

Court of Appeals Judge John Gemmill “has made a unique impact on the legal and public communities with a combination of judicial intelligence, humility, respect for humanity, and a gift for listening” according to those who nominated him.

Judge Gemmill is “unceasingly respectful of those around him, recognizing and respecting others’ various perspectives and approaches to life and the law,” Judge Diane M. Johnson wrote in a letter supporting Gemmill’s nomination. “I could not have asked for a better mentor as I began my career on the bench.”

Gemmill spent 25 years in private practice with the firm primarily known at the time as Teilborg, Sanders & Parks before his appointment to the bench. Over the years, his colleagues elected him vice chief judge and chief judge of the Court of Appeals.

Judge Gemmill traveled to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to assist with post-Hurricane Katrina reconstruction efforts in 2008, and flew to the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2010, 2013, and again this year for justice conferences. Gemmill currently serves on the Congo Initiative-USA Board of Directors.

Saying he “flunked retirement,” Judge Reinstein was honored for his 22 years on the bench and for his dedication to advancing the rights of crime victims. He currently chairs the Supreme Court Commission on Victims in the Courts and the Arizona Forensic Science Advisory Committee. Judge Reinstein serves as a consultant to the National Institute of Justice, National Forensic Science Technology Center and Justice Department Office of Victims of Crime.

Judge Reinstein is the recipient of the 2011 U.S. Attorney General National Crime Victim Service Award and U.S. Attorney General Distinguished Service Award for DNA Commission. The Arizona State Bar James Walsh Outstanding Judge Award and Judicial Award of Excellence and the Maricopa County Bar Association’s Henry Stevens Outstanding Judge Award are also among his accolades.

“I was really touched by the sentiments expressed by those who wrote letters of support for my nomination,” Judge Reinstein said. “All five Supreme Court justices attended, as well as many federal and state judges who were there in support of the Hall of Fame inductees.”

Judge Elizabeth Finn was honored for her devotion to the issues of domestic violence and mental health having written grants to help bring much needed financial resources to these two issues. She implemented the City of Glendale’s Mental Health Court, Domestic Violence Treatment Court, DUI Review Court, and is one of the original participants in Homeless Court.

Judge Finn is a founding member and past chair of the Arizona Supreme Court Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence. She is the most senior judge on the Arizona courts with 36 years of continuous public service and is currently the Glendale City Court Presiding Judge. Her family represents the only third generation family to have graduated the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.

“My father, Herbert B. Finn, was inducted into the Hall of Fame before me, largely for his civil rights work. With this Hall of Fame honor, we are distinguished as the only father-daughter team of inductees,” Judge Finn said. “I am honored to be recognized for my domestic violence work and creating specialty courts. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing these courts save the lives of victims and defendants. We in the justice system can make a difference.”